

SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. The USSR is sending Soviet-indoctrinated Uzbeks into all of the larger towns in Afghanistan. There they open small shops from which they distribute Soviet propaganda. 25X1
2. Conditions in Afghanistan are favorable for Communism, particularly in the north where there is a lack of food and employment, a high concentration of wealth in the hands of the few,* and general dissatisfaction with the Afghan royal family.**

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Comment. Shortage of food and the concentration of the limited wealth in the hands of a small elite are well-known Afghan maladies. Usually, however, unemployment does not present a serious problem.

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Comment. [redacted] the Afghan people are tired of being "milked dry" by the royal family. There is much criticism of the Prime Minister, Shah MAHMOUD Khan, for leaving the country "with his pockets full of dollars." The Government-controlled press says that the Prime Minister is going to the United States for medical treatment but many people believe that he is leaving the country for political reasons.

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Comment. The Prime Minister reportedly turned over the entire sum of 400,000 Afghanis, which had been voted for his travel and medical expenses in the US, to the Ministry of Education for their use. He is paying all costs out of his own pocket. This step should somewhat allay criticism of the Prime Minister for misappropriating funds. He is currently in the US, recovering from a serious operation for goiter.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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